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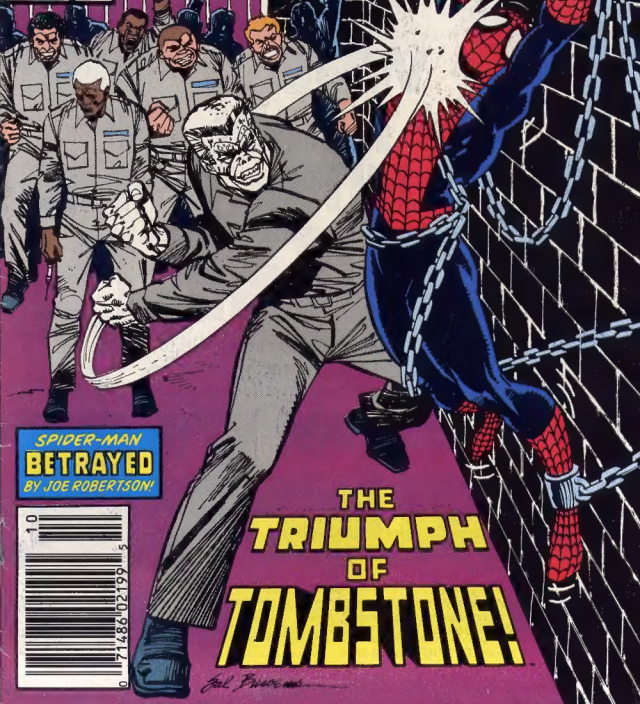


AUTHORITY

SUPER HERO!

the

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN



SPIDER-MAN
BETRAYED

BY JOE ROBERTSON!



THE
TRIUMPH
OF
TOMBSTONE!

Art by Phil Witte

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!**™

FOR A MAN ACCUSTOMED TO WEB-SLINGING THE NARROW CANYONS AND HIGH TOWERS OF NEW YORK CITY--

--THE OPEN SPACES OF UNION COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AND THE GRIM GRAY WALLS OF LEWISBURG FEDERAL PRISON PRESENT A DIFFERENT KIND OF CHALLENGE.

NOT HARDER... JUST DIFFERENT.

YAWN! WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE FOR A FULL NIGHT'S SLEEP INSTEAD, HERE I AM BREAKING INTO PRISON.

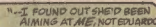
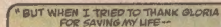
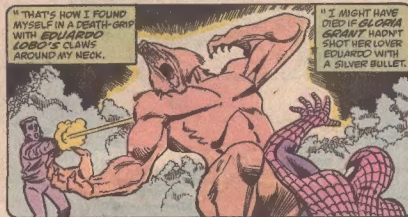
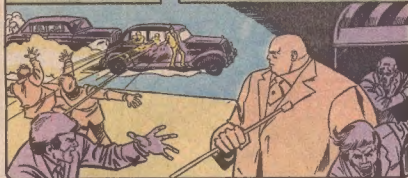
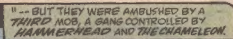
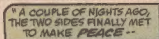
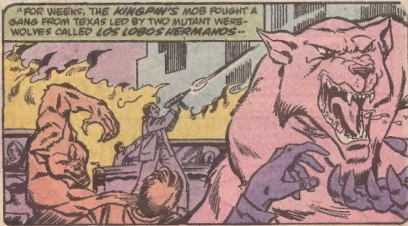
OH WELL, ONE GOOD THING--

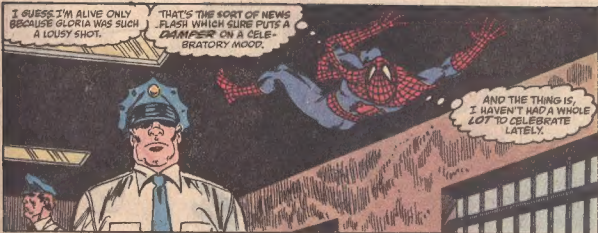
--AFTER ALL I'VE BEEN THROUGH LATELY, THIS FEELS LIKE A SUMMER VACATION.

CRASH OUT!

GERRY CONWAY SAL BUSCEMA MIKE ESPOSITO RICK PARKER BOB SHAREN JIM SALICRUP TOM DeFALCO
SCRIPT PENCILS INKS LETTERS COLOR EDITOR EDITOR IN CHIEF

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AND THE THING IS, I HAVEN'T HAD A WHOLE LOT TO CELEBRATE LATELY.

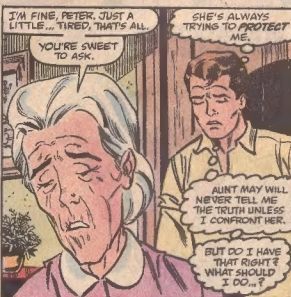
"THIS AFTERNOON I OVERHEARD MY AUNT MAY TALKING WITH A DOCTOR ABOUT SOME MEDICAL TESTS..."

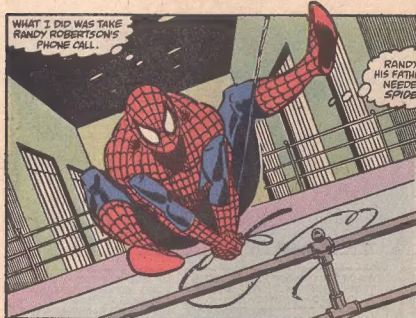


"WHEN I TOLD MARY JANE ABOUT IT A FEW HOURS AGO, I FELT SO NUMB I COULD HARDLY REACT..."

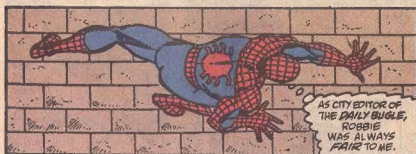


I WISH I KNEW WHAT TO TELL YOU, PETER. BOTH OF US HAVE SO MUCH GOING ON, IT'S HARD TO KNOW WHAT TO SAY OR DO...





RANDY TOLD ME HIS FATHER URGENTLY NEEDED TO SEE SPIDER-MAN--

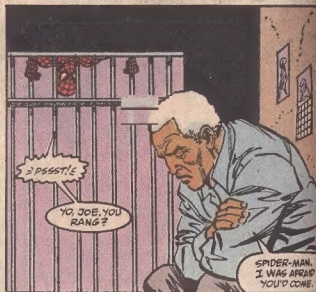


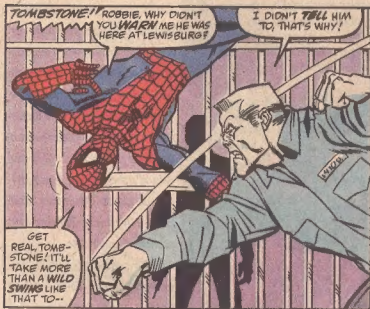
-- HERE IN PRISON, NO LATER THAN MIDNIGHT TONIGHT.

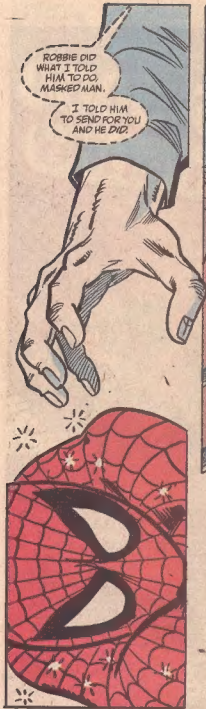
WHEN HE WAS SENTENCED FOR HOLDING BACK INFORMATION ABOUT THE MOB HITMAN, TOMBI-STONE, I PROMISED ROBBIE HE COULD CALL SPIDER-MAN FOR HELP ANY TIME, THROUGH PETER PARKER.



"NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. JOE ROBERTSON IS A GOOD MAN IN A BAD SPOT, AND HE NEEDS ALL THE FRIENDS HE CAN GET. AS DO WE ALL."







ROBBIE DID
WHAT I TOLD
HIM TO DO,
MASKED MAN.

I TOLD HIM
TO SEND FOR YOU
AND HE DID.



I TOLD HIM TO NAIL YOU WITH
THAT NEEDLE FULL OF SOME KIND
OF EXPERIMENTAL VIRUS ONE
OF MY OUTSIDE PALS SENT ME,
AND HE DID.

TOMBSTONE...

I TELL HIM TO
JUMP OFF A TEN
STORY BUILDING,
WE'LL ASK WHEN.

YOU WANT TO
KNOW WHY?



BECAUSE
HE'S SCARED.

AS LONG AS I'VE KNOWN
HIM, SINCE WE WERE KIDS IN
HIGH SCHOOL, MY PAL ROBBIE'S
ALWAYS BEEN SCARED.

ROBBIE... I'M
BURNING UP... SO
SICK... HELP ME...

DON'T BOTHER
YELLING FOR
HELP, WALL-
CRAWLER.

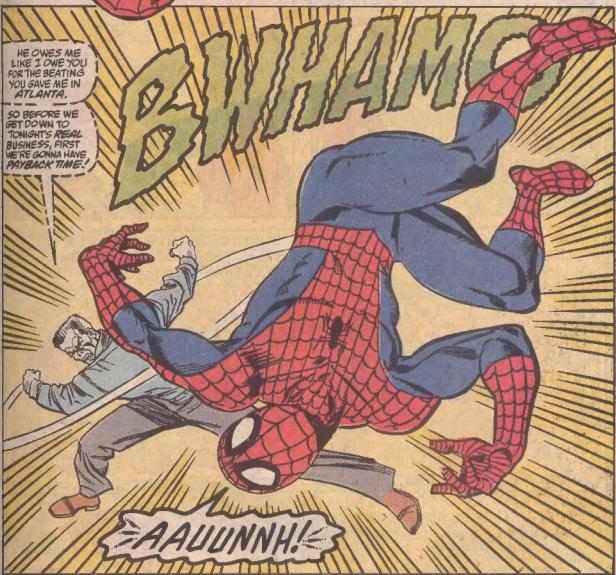
I OWN THE TRUSTEE
FOR THIS CELLBLOCK.



HE OWES ME
LIKE I OWE YOU
FOR THE BEATING
YOU GAVE ME IN
ATLANTA.

SO BEFORE WE
GET DOWN TO
TONIGHT'S REAL
BUSINESS, FIRST
WE'RE GONNA HAVE
PAYBACK TIME!

BWHAM!



AAUUNNH!



HIT 'IM
BOSS!

WRECK 'IM
REAL GOOD!

ALWAYS HOPED I'D
SEE ONE'A THEM SUPER-
GUYS GET A FACE FULLA
KNUCKLES!

HEY, GEEK--
SOME SHOW,
HUH?

SOME SHOW...

SPEAKING OF SHOWS, IT'S TIME WE BROKE THIS SHOW WITH AN INTERMISSION:

A FEW HUNDRED MILES EAST OF UNION COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, IN A PART OF QUEENS, NEW YORK KNOWN AS **FOREST HILLS...**

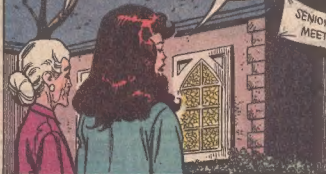
I'M SO GLAD YOU WERE FREE TO JOIN ME, MARY JANE.



IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I SPENT AN EVENING PLAYING **BINGO** IN THE PARISH HOUSE BASEMENT.

PETER USED TO LOVE BINGO WHEN HE WAS A BOY.

DID HE? PETER? MR. SERIOUS SCHOLAR?



OH, YES, BUT AFTER HIS UNCLE BEN DIED, IT SEEMS HE NEVER HAD TIME FOR **GAMES** ANYMORE. PETER DOESN'T UNDERSTAND, MARY JANE.

SHE'S TALKING ABOUT HER **ALL-NESS**-- BUT SHE WON'T SAY ANYTHING, BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T WANT TO BURDEN PETER AND ME, WHEN WE'RE SO WORRIED ABOUT OUR **OWN** PROBLEMS-- MY CAREER, PETER'S SCHOOL...

WHAT SHOULD I DO? HOW CAN I LET HER KNOW I UNDERSTAND, WITHOUT-- EH?

UH-OH. LOOKS LIKE WE WON'T BE PLAYING BINGO TONIGHT AFTER ALL, MAY.

OH, DEAR.



WE HAVE TO ENJOY LIFE WHILE WE CAN.



SENIOR CITIZENS FOR SERVICE MEETING TONIGHT

SILLY ME, I MUST HAVE GOTTEN THE NIGHTS CONFUSED?

DO YOU WANT TO GO HOME?



OH; NO-- NOT AT ALL.

AS LONG AS WE'RE HERE, WE MIGHT AS WELL CHECK IT UP--AS YOU YOUNG FOLKS LIKE TO SAY.



THIS PLACE CERTAINLY LOOKS **BUSY**. THERE ARE SENIOR VOLUNTEER GROUPS FOR HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS, HOMELESS MISSIONS-- I NEVER REALIZED--

NEITHER DID I
YOU KNOW, MY
DEAR--

INTERMISSION, PART TWO:
A CHEMICAL FACTORY IN UPPER
MANHATTAN, OWNED BY PETER
PARKER'S LONGTIME FRIEND
(AND ONE-TIME GREEN GOBLIN),
HARRY OSBORN.

IT'S TIME I TOOK
SOME **ACTION**
OF MY OWN...

HARD TO BELIEVE NOW,
FLASH-- BUT THIS PLACE WAS
A REAL DISASTER AREA AFTER
THE **WEIRDNESS** THAT HIT
NEW YORK LAST AUTUMN. *

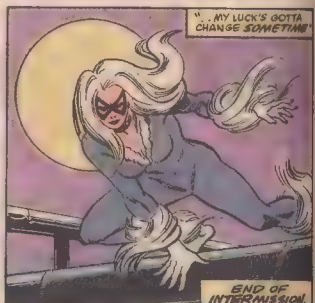
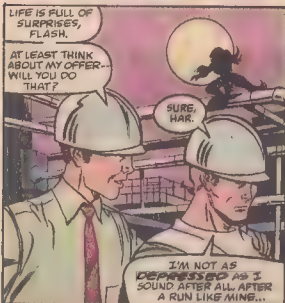
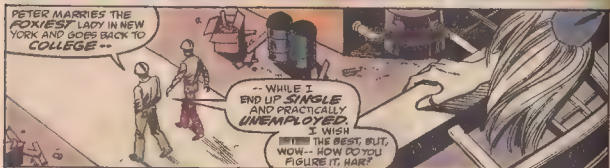
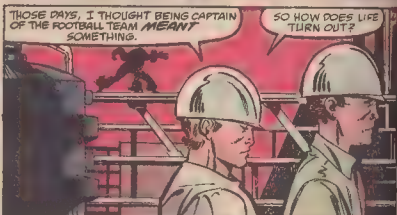
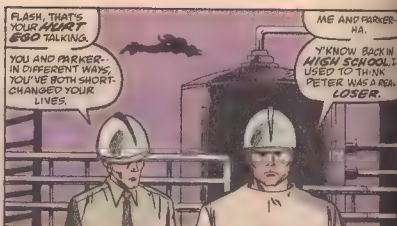
* A WEIRDNESS CALLED
INFERNO, FOR THOSE
IN THE KNOW... J.S.

Y -- BUT WE STILL HAVE SO MUCH REBUILDING TO DO, I'M SPENDING ALL MY DAYS AND HALF MY NIGHTS HERE IN MANHATTAN SUPERVISING CONSTRUCTION.

WITH LIZ AND LITTLE NORMAN STAYING
AT OUR PLACE IN NEW JERSEY, THAT'S A
REAL **HARDSHIP**

I CAN
IMAGINE.

I'M YOUR
BUDDY, HAR--IF
THERE'S ANYTHING
I CAN DO TO
HELP, NAME
IT.



NOW, BACK TO
OUR SHOW.



MORE THAN YOU KNOW,
WEB-SPINNER. YOUR
TROUBLES ARE JUST
BEGINNING

TOMBSTONE. IF I DIDN'T
FEEL SO SICK AND WEAK,
I'D MAKE YOU SWALLOW
THAT CIGARETTE SIDEWAYS

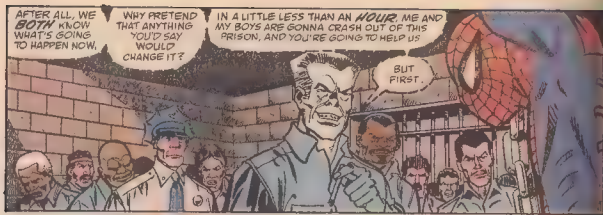


I ADMIRE YOUR ATTITUDE
SPIDER-MAN. A LOT OF GUYS
IN YOUR POSITION WOULD BE
BEGGING ME FOR MERCY
RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

I HATE
IT WHEN
GUYS DO
THAT

I ASK
MYSELF
WHERE'S
THEIR
PRIDE?



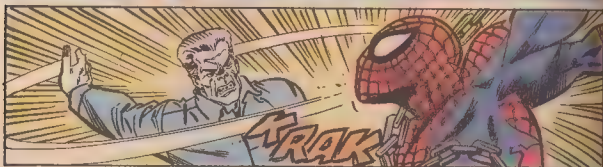


AFTER ALL, WE BOTH KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NOW,

WHY PRETEND THAT ANYTHING YOU'D SAY WOULD CHANGE IT?

IN A LITTLE LESS THAN AN HOUR, ME AND MY BOYS ARE GONNA CRASH OUT OF THIS PRISON, AND YOU'RE GOING TO HELP US

BUT FIRST.

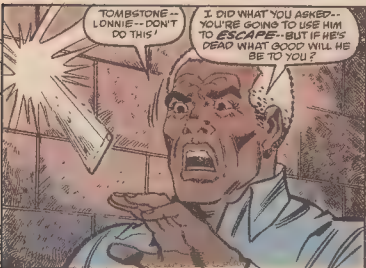


...THERE'S A LITTLE SCORE WE HAVE TO SETTLE, YOU AND ME.

ATLANTA?



ATLANTA.



TOMBSTONE--
LONNIE--DON'T
DO THIS!

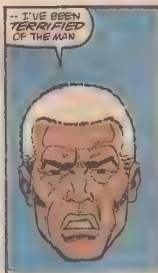
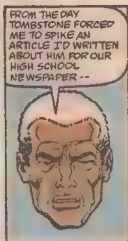
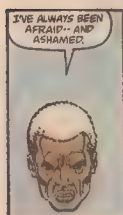
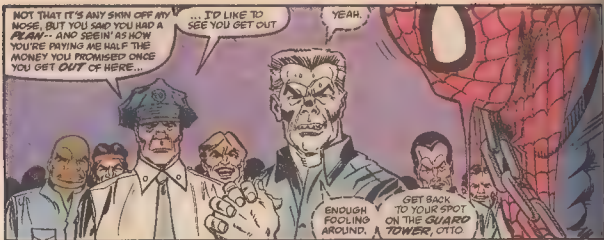
I DID WHAT YOU ASKED--
YOU'RE GOING TO USE HIM
TO ESCAPE--BUT IF HE'S
DEAD WHAT GOOD WILL HE
BE TO YOU?



NICE POINT,
ROBBIE-PAL.

YOU'RE RIGHT. I
DON'T WANT THE
WEB-SLINGER
DEAD.







ROBBIE... YOU'VE GOTTA FIGHT BACK.

OTHERWISE TOMBSTONE IS GOING TO DESTROY YOU.

I HAD A FRIEND. HIS NAME WAS BRUISER.

WASN'T AFRAID OF TOMBSTONE. HE FOUGHT BACK.

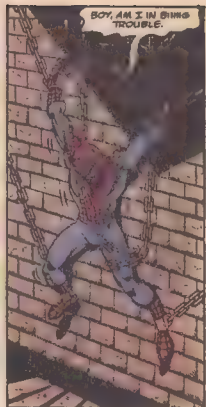
TOMBSTONE KILLED HIM.



DON'T YOU SEE? I'M ALREADY DESTROYED.

ROBBIE...

ROBBIE...



BOY, AM I IN SHINING TROUBLE.



OUTSIDE, AS DAWN BREAKS OVER GUARD TOWER 2-A

HEY, OTTO-- WHERE YOU BEEN?

STRETCHIN' MY LEGS

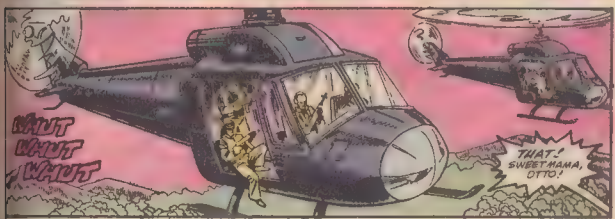


THE WAY WE'RE STUCK UP HERE, SOMETIMES, I WONDER WHO'S IMPRISONING WHOM. KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

DON'T I? YOU'D ALMOST THINK-- HEY! LOOKIT THAT!

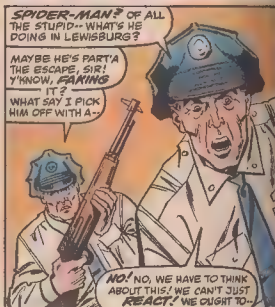
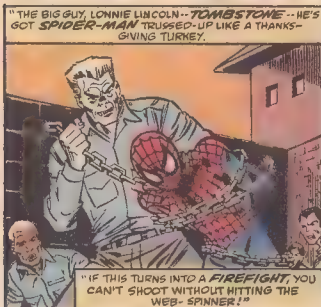
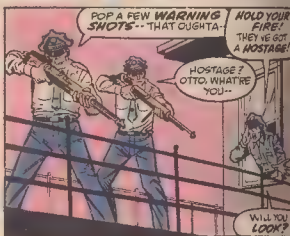
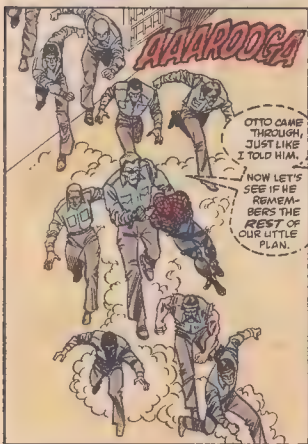
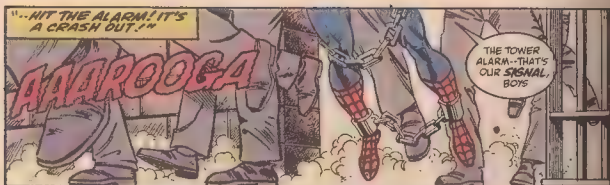
WHUT WHUT WHUT

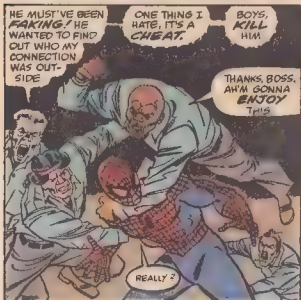
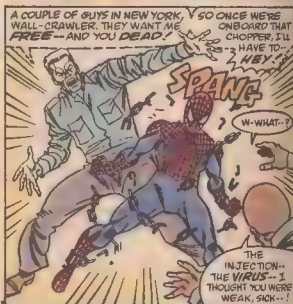
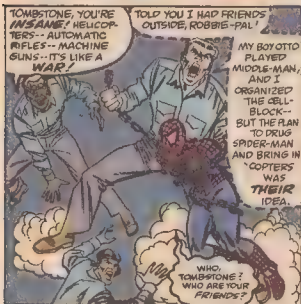
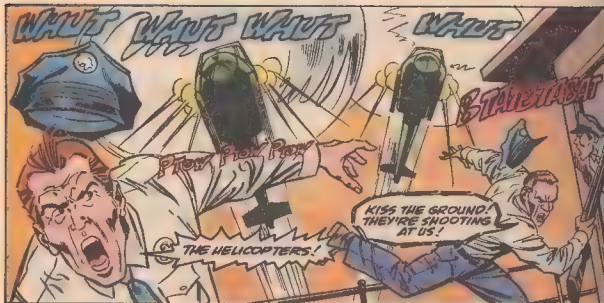
LOOKIT WHAT?

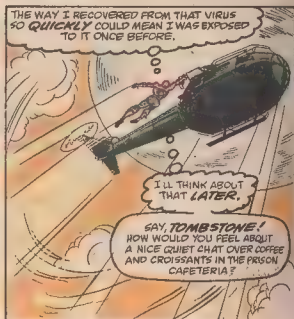
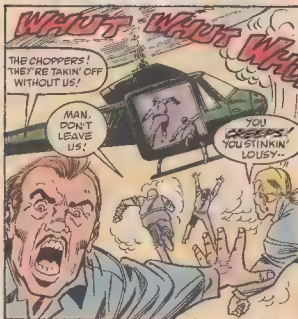
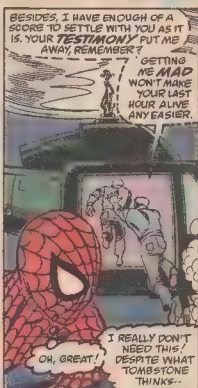
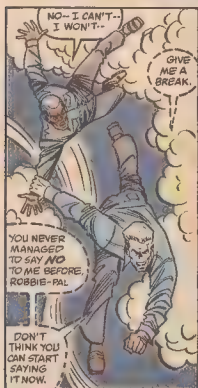
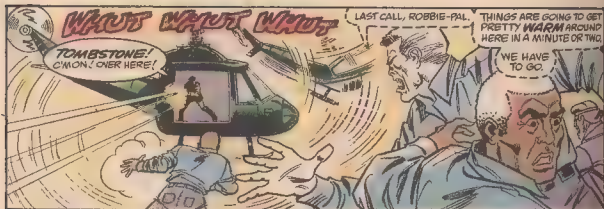


WHUT WHUT WHUT

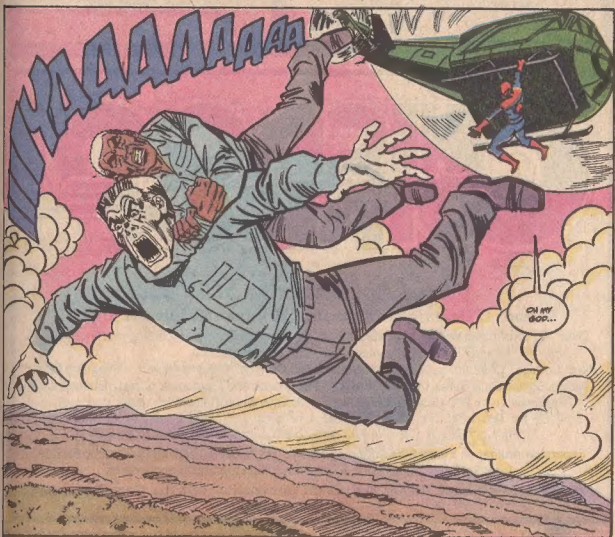
THAT! SWEET MAMA, OTTO!

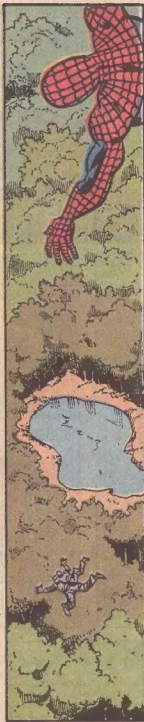














JAMMED!

TWO GRAND I
PAY FOR THIS JUNK--
AND THE FIRST TIME
I USE IT, THE MAG-
AZINE JAMS.

TYPICAL
CRUDDY
AMERICAN
WORKMAN-
SHIP.

I WOULD'A BOUGHT
AN ISRAELI MODEL
IF THEY HADN'T BEEN
BANNED FOR IMPORT.



NOW I
GOTTA
OH.

THERE
WE GO--

FLOW
FLOW
FLOW

UH-UH,
CREEP.



BOOF

THERE
YOU GO!



I'LL SAY THIS ONCE. I'M IN NO
MOOD TO REPEAT MYSELF:

SWING THIS OVERGROWN EGGBEATER
AROUND AND TAKE ME BACK TO THE
SPOT WHERE TOMBSTONE AND
ROBERTSON FELL.

WHAT
SPOT?

IT'S ALL FOREST
DOWN THERE! I'LL
NEVER FIND--

SHUT UP AND DO IT.



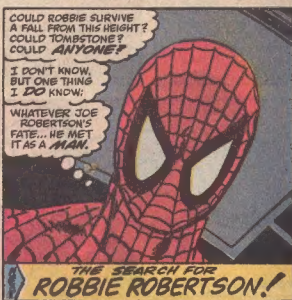
WHO AM I KIDDING?
THE PILOT MAY BE A
THUG, BUT HE'S
RIGHT.

THOSE HILLS ARE
WOODED WITH
TREES AND FOLIAGE.

I'M NO
WOODSMAN.

I HAVE NO WAY TO
LOCATE THE PLACE
WHERE ROBBIE FELL.

AND WHAT
IF I DO? WHAT
WILL I FIND?



COULD ROBBIE SURVIVE
A FALL FROM THIS HEIGHT?
COULD TOMBSTONE?
COULD ANYONE?

I DON'T KNOW,
BUT ONE THING
I DO KNOW:

WHATEVER JOE
ROBERTSON'S
FATE... HE MET
IT AS A MAN.

THE SEARCH FOR
ROBBIE ROBERTSON!